



**CHILDREN'S  
FRIEND  
& SERVICE**

**CHILDREN'S FRIEND AND SERVICE  
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## THE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

### What is the Foster Care Program?

The Foster Care Program at Children's Friend and Service offers training and support to those considering becoming foster parents. We provide ongoing support as foster parents provide safe, nurturing, temporary homes for children whose birthparents are facing personal or family crises. The program focuses on meeting the needs of all those involved: the children, the foster parents and the birthparents.

### Am I eligible to be a foster parent?

Foster parents can be individuals or couples in traditional or non-traditional relationships, and may come from many different backgrounds, experiences and cultures, yet have much in common:

- ◆ A sincere desire to make a difference in the life of a child
- ◆ The ability to care and provide for children
- ◆ The ability to respond to the special needs of children in crisis
- ◆ Sensitivity to cultural differences, life experiences and individual needs of foster children
- ◆ A commitment to completing the licensing process

### What services are available?

Children's Friend and Service provides training and assistance with completing the licensing process to new foster parents before a child is placed in the home. Trained professionals assist individuals in filling out an application and perform an assessment to ensure readiness for this responsibility. After a child is placed in the home, we offer continued support through regular home visits from professional social workers, ongoing telephone contact, training seminars targeted to meet the needs of foster parents, and links and referrals to community services. In addition, foster parents receive a monthly stipend for caring for foster children in their home. Foster parents are not responsible for any medical expenses or counseling that the foster child may require.

### Who are the children that need homes?

Most of the children in the foster care program are infants and children ages six years and under. Some have been abused and neglected, or have parents who are unable to care for them; some of the children will be returning to their birthparents, while others are waiting to move in with their adoptive families.

### Who do I call?

Call Wendy Allmendinger, Adoption/Foster Care Recruiter at (401)276-4366; or Jud Lisiecka, Permanency Program Manager at 276-4342.